

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the indicated paragraphs of the specification in accordance with the amendments indicated below.

Page 1: 1<sup>st</sup> full paragraph, amend as indicated below:

The present invention relates to a layered structure breaking strength estimating method and ~~apparatus~~ apparatus, more particularly to a method and apparatus for estimating the breaking strength of a layered structure which includes an upper layer and a lower layer.

Page 2: 2<sup>nd</sup> full paragraph, amend as indicated below:

As a first aspect of the present invention, a method and an ~~apparatus~~ apparatus for layered structure breaking strength estimation is characterized by inserting the edge of a cutting blade into the upper layer of the structure, moving the cutting blade substantially in parallel with the interface between the upper layer and the lower layer while the depth of the cutting blade being controlled to such a depth slightly ~~upper~~ higher than the interface ~~that a cutting piece stays directly on the cutting blade~~, and measuring a force exerted on the cutting blade substantially in parallel with the interface.

Page 4 and 5: 1<sup>st</sup> full paragraph bridging these two pages, amend as indicated below:

The layered structure breaking strength estimating method and ~~appratus~~ apparatus of the first aspect of the present invention is implemented in which while the cutting blade is inserted into the upper layer, maintained at a setting depth slightly ~~upper~~ higher than the interface with its edge continuously holding directly a cutting piece, and moved substantially in parallel with the interface, a force exerted on the cutting blade substantially in parallel with the interface is measured and used as the criterion for estimating the breaking strength of the layered structure. This allows any layered structure which is relatively high in the bonding strength or has an interface located at an obscure depth to be successfully examined for its breaking strength.

Page 5: 3<sup>rd</sup> full paragraph, amend as indicated below:

As a second aspect of the present invention, a method and an ~~appratus~~ apparatus for layered structure breaking strength estimation is characterized by inserting the edge of a cutting blade into the upper layer of the structure and moving the cutting blade substantially in parallel with the interface between the upper layer and the lower layer, measuring a force exerted on the cutting blade substantially in parallel with the interface, moving the cutting blade substantially

in parallel with the interface while the depth of the cutting blade being controlled to such a depth where the force alternates between increase and decrease.

Page 8: 1<sup>st</sup> full paragraph, amend as indicated below:

The layered structure breaking strength estimating method and ~~appratus~~ apparatus of the second aspect of the present invention is implemented in which while the cutting blade is inserted into the upper layer, maintained at such a setting depth that the force exerted on the cutting blade substantially in parallel with the interface alternates between increase and decrease, and moved substantially in parallel with the interface, a force exerted on the cutting blade substantially in parallel with the interface is measured and used as the criterion for estimating the breaking strength of the layered structure. This allows any layered structure which is relatively high in the bonding strength or has an interface located at an obscure depth to be successfully examined for its breaking strength.

Page 9: 2<sup>nd</sup> full paragraph, amend as indicated below:

The layered structure breaking strength estimating method and ~~appratus~~ apparatus of the third aspect of the present invention allows the three factors of the cutting blade during the cutting action to be expressed in graphic profiles thus clarifying the relationship between the factors.

**IN THE ABSTRACT:**

Please cancel the present abstract and replace the abstract with the cleanly typed substitute abstract submitted on the following separate page.